
From: Allen Bushnell [mailto:bushnell@ucsc.edu]
Sent: Saturday, December 08, 2007 11:45 AM
To: MLPAComments
Subject: North Central Coast Siting

To Whom it May Concern:

I am an avid recreational fisherman, and journalist. I write the weekly fishing column for the Santa Cruz Sentinel and co-host the seasonal "Let's Go Fishing Radio Show" with Mike Baxter from KSCO Santa Cruz. I also operate Santa Cruz Kayak Fishing guide business, licensed through the California Department of Fish and Game.

Ocean kayak fishing is unique in the sense it is low impact, using no fuel and creating no emissions. One drawback of course is our inability to cover much territory when fishing. We need to launch from protected areas and fish close by the launch spots, as would anyone with a top speed of 2-4 knots. Once the wind comes up for the day, fishing is over, and we need to paddle back to shore. For safety's sake, I usually fish very close by my launch area.

I was disappointed with the results of closures in the South Central Coast Project, which removed key kayak fishing areas from availability, including the Pinnacles area in Carmel, and the productive reef areas from Scott's Creek to Ano Nuevo. I am very concerned about some of our few remaining kayak launching/fishing spots on the San Mateo coastline that may be threatened by the current process and proposals.

The primary launch/fishing areas I would prefer to remain open and available for kayak fishing include Bean Hollow State Beach and the Pigeon Point area, the Pescadero reef areas, and Lindemar Beach and reef areas near Pacifica. Each of these spots offers the unique combination of productive fishing close by a protected launch area, vital needs for the growing cadre of kayak anglers in northern California.

Though I have yet to fish there, I also would urge keeping the Pescadero Slough and Creek open under current DFG limitations for steelhead fishing. The Department is doing a fine job of protection there already. Please leave it be.

Thank you for posting my comments,

Allen Bushnell
Santa Cruz Kayak Fishing
"The Let's Go Fishing Radio Show"

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